

West Lafayette Beautification Award

August, 2011

The “On Our Knees” Ministry

Covenant Presbyterian Church

The eleven acre campus surrounding Covenant Presbyterian Church provides a rich opportunity for the members of the church to beautify their surroundings. The gardeners, known as the “On Our Knees” ministry have planned the landscaping and put it into the ground, performing all gardening tasks except grass cutting and tree removal. Twice a year, a Saturday clean-up event is held and many church members assist.

Gretchen Ely has been chair of this ministry since 2001, and had many years of service before she assumed that role. She is assisted by a half dozen hard-working women who tackle weeds with energy and enthusiasm for seven months each year. They have worked together to design a setting that is pleasing to the eyes of their neighbors as well as arriving church members. The annuals in the pots at the door are welcoming; daylilies are blooming out on Knox Drive. This group has discovered that a maintainable landscape means emphasizing shrubs and very hardy perennials. As this landscape matures, there are challenges of trees and shrubs that have outgrown their setting, planting new shrubs for visual barriers, and finding plants and shrubs that can tolerate West Lafayette’s hot dry summers – pulling hose to all the beds is a day-long job. The neighbors and community members are grateful for the many years of beautification given to us by this ministry.



